(c) Budget allocation is made for CGHS as a whole and the amount is not separately allocated system-wise.

(d) Requests from different quarters for opening of CGHS dispensaries in ISM and H are always considered favourably as per the requirements of the CGHS beneficiaries depending upon the availability of manpower and resources.

Legislation to prevent the misuse of CST

2919. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government would soon come forward with a legislation to prevent the misuse of the new Chromosome Separation Technique (CST) being currently resorted to for ensuring birth of a male child;

(b) if so. the details thereof and by when the proposed bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament; and

(c) the steps being taken to address the problem of rampant malpractice of sex determination leading to the abortion of female foetus?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Technical Sub-Committee of the Central Supervisory Board of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has been constituted to study and suggest necessary amendments to be made in the Act in view of the emerging technologies including sepration of X and Y Chromosomes leading to selection of sex of unborn child before conception. The proposed Bill for amendments may be brought in the next session of Parliament.

(c) The implementation of the PNDT Act which bans detection and disclosure of sex of foetus leading female foeticide rests largely with the States/ Union Territories. The States/UTs have, therefore, been advised to take effective steps for implementation of the Act and mount awareness campaigns to make the public and service providers aware of the provisions of the Act. The States/ UTs have also been advised to provide protection to social activists and Non Governmental Organisations giving information or filing complaints of violation of provisions of the Act.

Letters have been addressed to the Chief Ministers of all States/ UTs to give focussed attention to the issue of adverse sex ratio. Chief Secretaries of

all the States/UTs have also been addressed recently for following up on implementation of various provisions of the PNDT Act.

Workshops/Seminars are being organised at State/district level, to create awareness about the provisions of the Act. Voluntary Organisations are also being involved to carry out projects regarding creating awareness about the provisions of the Act. Grant-in-aid has also been released to NGOs to conduct seminars and workshops and other Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in certain States.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctors/clinics/law enforcing authorities and public at large. The co-operation of the NGOs has also been requested in listing and enumerating within their jurisdiction, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detect registered/unregistered clinics.

Recently, Supreme Court has issued certain directions to both the Central and State Governments for effective implementation of the provisions of the PNDT Act. The directions include among other things wide publicity both at national and state levels for generating awareness about the Act.

Purchase of Doopan Samagri as an Ayurvedic Medicine

2920. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of ISM and H had purchased Doopan Samagri as an Ayurvedic medicine/drug for supplying the same in Surat during plague epidemic a few years ago;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the category/rule/order etc. under which Doopan Samagri has been considered as an Ayurvedic medicine/drug for the purpose;

(c) whether quotations/tenders were invited for its purchase;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the details of its quantity and price at which it was purchased alongwith the name of the company?